

ISAC Meeting – May, 2014

ACTION OR INFORMATION ITEM

SPONSOR (Name/Email): Bill Hyatt

TOPIC: Federal Invasive Species Management in the Range of the Greater Sage-Grouse

SPEAKER (Name/Email): Ken Mayer (WAFWA Wildfire/Invasive Initiative Coordinator;
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1. DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM (include length of time needed):

30 minutes: Update on the critical conservation situation of the Greater sage-grouse (Possible Endangered Species Listing) and the direct and indirect impacts caused by invasive plants within the bird's range across 11 western states—wildfire and invasive species are the number 1 threat to sage-grouse. Several key federal agencies responsible for managing invasive species under Executive Order 13112 play a pivotal role in protecting and restoring habitat for the Greater sage-grouse, and immediate action is necessary to address the threats from invasive annual grasses, other woody invasive species and native pest species. WAFWA is working across the landscape in cooperation with local, state, and federal agencies, and with NGO's, universities, and other stakeholders in the public and private sectors to develop conservation strategies to manage and conserve the bird and avoid a listing. WAFWA will describe the situation related to the Greater sage-grouse and highlight the major part invasive species have and will play in the listing of this bird by the USFWS as Threatened, and discuss activities underway to address the threats to the bird.

2. WHY IS THIS ITEM IMPORTANT TO NISC / ISAC? HOW IS IT RELATED TO THE NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN?

The lack of adequate and sustainable landscape-scale actions to prevent and control invasive species within the range of the Greater sage-grouse has resulted in major ecosystem and habitat degradation. Federal agencies under the National Invasive Species Council, including but not limited to the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service, are in need of significant financial and capacity support to meet their obligations under Executive Order 13112 and other relevant authorities to protect the habitat for remaining populations of the Greater sage-grouse.

3. PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN BY NISC / ISAC ON THIS ITEM:

None

4. ACTION REQUESTED OF NISC / ISAC:

Take note of the significant impact of invasive species on the survival of the Greater Sage-Grouse and encourage/recommend that the Federal agencies increase their emphasis on invasive plant management within the range of the Greater Sage-Grouse.

5. ALTERNATIVES:

- No Action by ISAC
- ISAC requested to inform Federal agencies, as opportunities arise, of the threat to Greater Sage-Grouse and associated ecosystems from invasive plants. Also to convey information on the efforts of Western states (being coordinated through WAFWA) regarding potential actions via interagency collaboration (local, state, federal, and private organizations).

6. ATTACHMENTS: See handouts from WAFWA (to be provided at the meeting)